

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07
/049 W

-----181736Z 125449 /47

O P 181634Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0051
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY
USDELMC PRIORITY
USCINCEUR PRIORITY
CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN PRIORITY
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES PRIORITY
DIRNSA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3480

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, GR, US
SUBJECT: US-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION DISCUSSIONS: SUPERSEDING
EXISTING AGREEMENTS (DCA, XVII)

REFS: (A) STATE 78043 (DTG 070244Z APR 77)
(B) STATE 78044 (DTG 072044Z APR 77)

1. MOST OF APRIL 18 WORKING GROUP SESSION WAS DEVOTED TO
CONCEPTUAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS CONCERNING WAYS TO SET FORTH
THE STATUS OF OTHER DEFENSE RELATED AGREEMENTS BETWEEN OUR
GOVERNMENTS.

2. DRAWING ON REF A, U.S. SIDE EXPLAINED THE DESIRABILITY
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OF LIMITING ARTICLE XVII TO A NON-SPECIFIC SUPERSESSION OF
THOSE PROVISIONS OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS THAT ARE INCONSISTENT
WITH THE DCA AND ITS APPENDICES. THE GREEKS STRONGLY RESISTED
THIS APPROACH, STATING THAT THE DCA WAS INTENDED COMPLETELY
TO EMBODY THE NEW DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS,
IMPLICITLY OBTAINING THE NEED FOR THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF
PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS. AFTER OUR CAREFUL USE OF EXAMPLES,

THE GREEKS DID ADMIT THAT SOME EXISTING AGREEMENTS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO SURVIVE BUT, IN LINE WITH THE FOREGOING REASONING, IT WAS UP TO THE U.S. TO IDENTIFY THOSE AGREEMENTS AND SECURE GREEK CONSENCE.

3. THE GREEKS THEN PROPOSED THAT ARTICLE XVII BE LIMITED TO A SINGLE PARAGRAPH PROVIDING FOR THE SUPERSESION OF ALL BILATERAL AGREEMENTS CONCERNING U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES AND THE STATUS OF U.S. FORCES IN GREECE. A SEPARATE, CONTEMPORANEOUS, AND UNCLASSIFIED EXCHANGE WOULD BE USED TO SPECIFY THOSE EXCEPTIONS THAT WOULD SURVIVE. U.S. SIDE THEREUPON PROPOSED LISTING THE SUPERSEDED AGREEMENTS AS WELL. THE GREEKS OPPOSED THIS SUGGESTION UNLESS A FURTHER STATEMENT WERE ADDED TO INDICATE THAT BOTH LISTINGS COMPRISED ALL AFFECTED AGREEMENTS.

4. THE GREEKS THEN NOTED THAT TAKING THE TOTALITY OF THE DCM, THEIR PROPOSED ARTICLE XVII COULD CALL INTO QUESTION OTHER DEFENSE RELATED AGREEMENTS THAT WERE NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO MILITARY FACILITIES OR STATUS, AND CONCLUDED THIS WAS NOT THEIR INTENTION. WE POINTED OUT THAT TO OVERCOME SUCH AN IMPACT WOULD REQUIRE AN EXCESSIVELY TIME-CONSUMING REVIEW OF ABOUT 125 AGREEMENTS WHICH MIGHT RESULT IN AN EXTREMELY VOLUMINOUS SEPARATE EXCHANGE. EXPRESSING A RELUCTANCE TO GO THIS ROUTE, THE GREEKS STATED THEY WANTED TO STUDY THE MATTER FURTHER KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ATHENS03480
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770134-0286
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770448/aaaabptr.tel
Line Count: 87
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 69cdcba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 78043, 77 STATE 78044
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2780791
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION DISCUSSIONS: SUPERSEDING EXISTING AGREEMENTS (DCA, XVII)
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, GR, US
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/69cdcba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009